

REMARKS

In view of the preceding amendments and the comments which follow, reconsideration of the Official Action of March 7, 2006 is respectfully requested by Applicants.

Claims 5, 16-21, 24, 26-28, 30, and 36 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 22, 25, 29 and 33 have been amended. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitation of claim 5, now cancelled. Claim 22 has been amended to recite the limitation of claim 24, now cancelled. Claim 29 has been amended to recite the limitation of claim 30, now cancelled. Claims 25 and 33 have been amended to depend from claim 22. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-3, 10, 11, 13, 14, 22, 23, 25, 29, and 31-33 are currently pending.

Rejection under 35 USC §102 (b)

Claims 1-3, 22, 23, 29, 31-33, and 36 have been rejected under 35 USC §102 (b) as being anticipated by Huber et al., US 5,976,812 (hereinafter "Huber") for the reasons of record as stated in paragraph 14 of the June 24, 2005 office action. The examiner has found Applicants' arguments filed December 19, 2005 to be unpersuasive.

By way of the present amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations recited in claim 5 (noted by the examiner to be allowable). Claims 2 and 3 depend from amended claim 1. Applicants have also amended claim 22 to incorporate the limitations recited in claim 24 (noted by the examiner to be allowable). Claims 23 and 33 depend from amended claim 22. Finally, Applicants have amended claim 29 to incorporate the limitations recited by claim 30 (noted by the examiner to be allowable). Claims 31 and 32 depend from amended claim 29. Claim 36 has been cancelled.

In light of the present amendments, the examiner's reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC §102/103 (a)

Claims 16-21 and 26-28 have been rejected under 35 USC §102/103 (a) as being anticipated by or obvious over Huber for the reasons stated in paragraph 15 of the June 24, 2005 office action. The examiner has found Applicants' arguments filed December 19, 2005 to be unpersuasive.

Claims 16-21 and 26-28 have now been cancelled by Applicants.